

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A unit for feeding capsules [[(2)]] onto a machine for filling capsules [[(2)]], the unit comprising:

a hopper [[(6)]] for containing the capsules [[(2)]]; the hopper [[(6)]] having a first axis [[(7)]] of rotation, being fitted with a number of feed channels [[(15)]], and rotating continuously about said first axis [[(7)]] to move said feed channels [[(15)]] about the first axis [[(7)]]; and

each feed channel [[(15)]] having a longitudinal second axis [[(14),]] and receiving the capsules [[(2)]] successively from said hopper [[(6)]]; ~~characterized in that~~

~~each said feed channel (15) is so being positioned such that the relative said second axis [[(14)]] forms a given an angle [[(a)]] of other than 90° with a reference plane [[(S1)]] perpendicular to said first axis [[(7)]].~~

2. (Currently amended) A unit as claimed in Claim 1, wherein each said feed channel [[(15)]] is so positioned such that the relative said second axis [[(14)]] intersects said first axis [[(7)]].

3. (Currently amended) A unit as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said feed channels [[(15)]] are connected to said hopper [[(6)]] so that said second axes [[(14)]] are equally spaced about said first axis [[(7)]].

4. (Currently amended) A unit as claimed in Claim 1, ~~and also~~ comprising a number of supporting bars [[(9)]] connected to said hopper [[(6)]] and each supporting bar having at least two respective of said feed channels [[(15)]]; each supporting bar [[(9)]] having a longitudinal plane of symmetry [[(S2)]] containing said first axis [[(7)]].

5. (Currently amended) A unit as claimed in Claim 4, wherein said supporting bars [[(9)]] are connected to said hopper [[(6)]] so that said longitudinal planes of symmetry [[(S2)]] are equally spaced about said first axis [[(7)]].

6. (Currently amended) A unit as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the feed channels [[(15)]] of each ~~said~~ supporting bar [[(9)]] are positioned with ~~the relative~~ said respective second axes [[(14)]] substantially parallel to one another and to ~~the relative~~ said longitudinal plane of symmetry [[(S2)]].

7. (Currently amended) A unit as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the feed channels [[(15)]] of each ~~said~~ supporting bar [[(9)]] are positioned with ~~the relative~~ said respective second axes [[(14)]] substantially converging with one another towards ~~the~~ relative said longitudinal plane of symmetry [[(S2)]].

8. (Currently amended) A unit as claimed in Claim 1, ~~and also~~ comprising a first transfer wheel [(19)] substantially coaxial with said first axis [(7)] and connected to said hopper [(6)] to rotate about the first axis [(7)]; the first wheel [(19)] having a substantially truncated-cone-shaped first outer peripheral surface [(24)], and a number of first seats [(25)] formed in said first surface [(24)], equal in number to said feed channels [(15)], and each ~~for receiving~~ first seat being adapted to receive at least one of said capsule (2) capsules from a relative at least one of said feed channel (15) channels.

9. (Currently amended) A unit as claimed in Claim 8, ~~and also~~ comprising:  
a second transfer wheel (27) ~~which rotates~~ rotatable continuously about a respective third axis [(29)] of rotation substantially parallel to said first axis [(7)]; and a first transfer station [(32)] connecting said first and said second wheel [(19, 27)] to each other; said second wheel [(27)] having a substantially truncated-cone-shaped second outer peripheral surface [(30),] and a number of second seats [(31)] formed in said second surface, [(30)] and each ~~for receiving~~ second seat being adapted to receive at least one of said capsule (2) capsules from a relative at least one of said first seat (25) seats.

10. (Currently amended) A unit as claimed in Claim 9, ~~and also~~ comprising:  
a third transfer wheel (34) ~~which rotates~~ rotatable continuously about a respective fourth axis [(36)] of rotation substantially parallel to said first and said third axis (7, 29); and

a second transfer station [[(40)]] connecting said second and said third wheel (27, 34) to each other; said third wheel [[(34)]] having a number of third seats [[(37)]] substantially parallel to said fourth axis, and each ~~for receiving third seat being adapted to receive at least one of said capsule (2) capsules from a relative at least one of said second seat (31) seats.~~

11. (Currently amended) A unit as claimed in Claim 10, wherein said feed channels [[(15)]] are connected to said hopper [[(6)]] so that said second axes [[(14)]] are equally spaced about said first axis [[(7)]]; said first, second, and third seats (25, 31, 37) being equally spaced ~~with a given spacing~~ about the respective said first, third, and fourth axis (7, 29, 36).

12. (Currently amended) A unit as claimed in Claim 10, and also comprising a number of supporting bars [[(19)]] connected to said hopper [[(6)]], each supporting bar having at least two ~~said feed channels, the supporting bars having (15), and which have~~ respective longitudinal planes of symmetry [[(S2)]] equally spaced about said first axis [[(7)]]; the feed channels [[(15)]] of each supporting bar [[(9)]] being positioned with ~~the relative~~ said second axes [[(14)]] substantially parallel to one another and to ~~the relative~~ said longitudinal plane of symmetry [[(S2)]].

13. (Currently amended) A unit as claimed in Claim 12, wherein the feed channels [[(15)]] of each supporting bar [[(9)]] are associated with a ~~relative~~ group of

said first seats [[(25)]]; the first seats [[(25)]] in each said group of first seats [[(25)]] being spaced about said first axis [[(7)]] with a given first spacing [[(p1)]].

14. (Currently amended) A unit as claimed in Claim 13, wherein each pair of adjacent supporting bars [[(9)]] has a pair of adjacent feed channels [[(15)]]; each pair of feed channels [[(15)]] being associated with a pair of said first seats [[(25)]]; and the first seats [[(25)]] in each said pair of first seats [[(25)]] being spaced about said first axis [[(7)]] with a given second spacing [[(p2)]].

15. (Currently amended) A unit as claimed in Claim 14, wherein said second seats [[(31)]] are spaced about said third axis [[(29)]] with the same spacing as said first seats [[(25)]], and said third seats [[(37)]] are equally spaced about said fourth axis [[(36)]] with a third spacing [[(p3)]] substantially smaller than said first spacing [[(p1)]] and substantially greater than said second spacing [[(p2)]].